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Wermont Journal

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Chester Selectboard makes appointments, revises cannabis board

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - The Chester Selectboard met on Wednesday, April 19, primarily to appoint and reappoint members of the planning commission and the developmental review board (DRB), as well as to make revisions to the composition of Chester's Cannabis Control Board. Before those topics could be addressed, however, sev-

eral matters were discussed which had been topics in previous board meetings, the most notable of which was an update on the Julian quarry. Multiple residents expressed their frustration with the fact that the quar-

despite alleged violations of Vermont's Act 250 and the continued pollution of nearby waterways. The selectboard assured residents that they were working on the matter, while at the same time noting that the issue was now in the hands of the legal system, and that it therefore would be a "drawn out" process. "I don't want to disappoint people and [say] that it's all going to be fixed in a month or two," said Selectboard Chair Arne Jonynas. "I could see this dragging

means lawyers and courts." "To be clear," interjected board member Arianna

on for a while... It's in the

legal system now, which

ry continued to operate, Knapp, "none of that means we're not taking action... We have initiated the process with our legal counsel."

The board then appointed Chester's Town Clerk/ Treasurer. Chester residents voted last year to make this an appointed, rather than elected, position. Deb Aldrich was appointed to the position, with the selectboard noting that she has worked for the town for 40 years, and thanking her for her service.

After then confirming the Vermont Journal as one of the Town of Chester's papers of record, the board went on to conduct interviews for the three open positions on the planning commission, for which

there were four interested parties. A major theme of these interviews was the applicant's vision for Chester in the future, with an emphasis on how they would address Chester's need for new housing while maintaining its distinctive town character. The board went into executive session for nearly an hour to deliberate the appointments, reemerging after conferring with Planning Commission Chair Hugh Quinn, and made their appointments. Tim Roper and Barry Pinske were reappointed to their positions on the commission for three years each, wile John Cummings was appointed to the re-

mainder of a two-year term

left vacant by selectboard member Peter Hudkins when he resigned due to the selectboard's conflict of interest policy. Robert Greenfield was unopposed for his reappointment to the DRB.

The board then adopted the town's local emergency management plan, and turned their attention to revising the composition of the town's cannabis control board. When the board was put in place a year prior, it was composed of seven members, with Knapp as chair. In the interim, two members had stepped down "due to conflicts." Knapp suggested that the cannabis control board be permanently reduced to five members, because, as she told the selectboard, "when you empaneled the commission, both the state and local towns believed that the towns would have an active role. As the state put everything into place, there was nothing left for the towns to do." This, she argued, made a sevenmember control board too large for its current function. The rest of the selectboard agreed, and approved a motion to reduce the cannabis control board to five members, including one se-

lectboard member. The Chester Selectboard is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m., on the second floor of the Chester Town

Ludlow Rotary Club to host annual Penny Sale

LUDLOW, Vt. - For the 65th time, the Ludlow Rotary Club's annual Penny Sale is upon us. You do not want to miss the fun. The sale will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Ludlow Elementary School Gym, and will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

There will be over 300 prizes on display, many of which could very well end up in your possession. You can see some of the items donated by our local businesses at the prize window

taurant. Admission is free, and refreshments will be available.

A cash raffle will conclude during the evening. Top prize is \$500 cash, and you do not need to be present to win. Should the winner be in the building, an additional \$25 will be added to the winning ticket. Raffle tickets may be purchased online at www.ludlowro-

This annual event of the Ludlow Rotary Club supon Main Street at DJ's Resports our scholarship program. Over the past two decades, we have awarded local graduating seniors over \$235,000 in scholarships to pursue higher edu-

cation. The Ludlow Rotary Club is active locally and internationally. We strive to promote peace and good will. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at DJ's in Ludlow, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. New members are welcome. Any questions, please call Kim at 802-228-4000 or Jim at 802-

Thank you to all our local businesses, who are so generous with their donations. This event is successful due to our many businesses. Maple syrup, ski passes, garden equipment, fishing poles, cash, restaurant gift cards, and too much more to name has been donated to this

Whether this is your first or 65th time attending, we are looking forward to seeing you for this mud season event.



Skiing at 100

CHESTER, Vt. - Laura Caravatt of Andover Road still enjoys an afternoon of cross country skiing even at 100.

Okemo Valley Women's Club April news

GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club met Monday, April 10, for their monthly business meeting at the Black River Valley Senior Center in Ludlow.

Their speaker for the month was Jane Wojeck, a local potter. Jane explained her inspirations, how she first started making pottery, and her love of creating beauty. She brought several of her pieces to show to the club. Much of her work involves nature, with pieces made with rhubarb leaves, ferns, Queen Anne's lace, and hosta leaves - all incorporated into the pottery itself. Jane also is known for her cutouts in the pottery. She makes kiln fired and white fire pottery in her studio, located on Brooks Road in Ludlow. Most of her work is currently sold on Facebook or at craft fairs, though she hopes to have her studio open to the public at some point.

After a fascinating presentation by Jane, the club held a business meeting to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects and volunteer events. At the meeting, preliminary plans were made for the May Dress A Girl project, which benefits young girls around the world to help protect them



Jane Wojeck speaking to the OVWC.

from human trafficking. The club voted to support NewStory Center in Rutland with a cash donation. NewStory is an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Also discussed was participating in the GFWC Day of National Service on Sept. 30, a national effort to help end hunger. The club women were pleased to announce that the state Barbara Iean Barker Scholarship of \$1,000 has been awarded to five recipients this year. The scholarship is given annually at the state level to displaced women who wish to return to the work force. The club will hold their annual Garden Project to benefit Mountainside House in early June, and

events over the summer to benefit our local community, in addition to the club's annual scholarship program. The club also planned their annual banquet and summer barbeque social events as the 2022-23 club year

Several club women attended the GFWC State Meeting in Castleton, Vt. on Saturday, April

winds down.

15. Clubs from around the state gathered to share ideas and discuss their individual clubs' projects, as well as state and national projects. In addition, Northeast Regional President-elect Tina Smith, Northeast Regional President Libby Wers, and Northeast Regional Secretary Bev Pallmerine were present. Each club president reviewed their club's activities and events over the past year, as did the state president. Also, a memorial service was held for departed club members, with flowers for each. The speaker for the state meeting was Avaloy Lanning, executive director of New-Story Center. NewStory fosters a culture in Rutland County that does not tol-

several fund raising community that offers a compassionate path to a lifetime of safety. The NewStory Center Emergency Shelter Program offers a safe, peaceful, home-like environment for survivors and their children to begin their new chapter. The center also has a 24/7 Crisis Hotline and support groups. NewStory has been helping victims for over 40 years, and is currently planning an expansion to increase their emergency shelter capacity.

> The April meeting of the GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club was their last meeting of the 2022-23 year. The next meeting is planned for Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center in Ludlow. The club always welcomes new members. For information, contact President Penny Trick at 802-975-0313, Membership Chair Suzanne Garvey at 802-236-4341, or any member. GFWC is the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer

BRGNS annual Spring Rummage Sale

LUDLOW, Vt. - Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) will hold its annual Spring Rummage Sale at Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow, on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 4

This gigantic sale includes a barn full of spring and summer clothing for the entire family, a boutique, shoe department, sporting goods department, housewares department, linens, books, furniture, bake sale, and grills. All in all, it is an amazing amount of merchandise at rock bottom, unreasonable-to-refuse prices.

Proceeds from the sale benefit Black River Good Neighbor Services food and financial assistance programs. According to Executive Director, Krey Kellington, "all monies are essentially directed back into our community, where most needed."

Funds raised will help cover food, cost of utilities, heating fuel, and rent for qualified individuals and families residing in Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

Mark your calendar and come explore the many unique bargains on May 12 and 13. Donations of furniture and household goods are also most appreciated. To arrange a donation drop-off, please call 802-228-3663.

For further details, please contact Krey Kellington at Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, at 802-228-3663 or kkellingtonbrgns@gmail.

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The deadline for all content is Friday at 12 p.m. for the following Wednesday publication.

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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS editor@vermontjournal.com

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One final poetry experience

CHESTER, Vt. - Weekly celebrations of poetry by former Vermont Poet Laureate Syd Lea, regional poetry slammers, and poetrylovers who brought their favorite nature poems to read along the Brookside Trail on Earth Day, will culminate in front of the Academy Building in the heart of Chester's Historic District on Saturday, April 29. Don't forget to bring a folding chair so you can sit comfortably as you soak in the poems.

During the Stone Village Poetry Experience's final

celebration of National Poetry Month, five local poets will read from their poetry. The poets - whose styles range from rhymed couplets to free verse, and whose topics range from the confessional and the mystical to the political will read from their collections of poems, some of which have been created over decades.

The poets - who range in age as widely as they do in styles and interests include Elise Hopkins, Margaret Lark-Russell, Art Sorrentino, Damien

Connolly, and Richard Pierce. They have been working together in regular poetry workshops sponsored by the Stone Village Poetry Experience and facilitated by Tuck Wunderle, who will also read.

The readings will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday. In case of rain, the readings will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church in the Stone Village, and will begin at 3:15. For further information, contact tuckerman@terrigenous.com.

Castleton String Quartet to play benefit for MCNP

WESTON, Vt. - New Thought Vermont will present The Castleton String Quartet in concert to benefit My Community Nurse Project (MCNP) on Sunday, April 30, at 4 p.m. at the Walker Farm Theatre in Weston, Vt. There will be no fee for the program, and generous donations to My Community Nurse Project are encouraged. The Vermont musicians include Weston resident Peter Miller, Wallingford resident Kathryn Luzader, and Rutland residents Sarah Koon and Marina Smakhtina. Selections by Vivaldi, Haydn, and Mo-



The Castleton String Quartet will play in Weston on April 30, to benefit My Community Nurse Project. PHOTO PROVIDED

zart, as well as lighter fare For information, call 802by Joplin, Ellington, and

824-3810 or email info@ newthoughtvermont.com.

Chester Alumni Parade seeks participants-

CHESTER, Vt. - The Chester Green Mountain Alumni Association will be hosting the annual alumni parade on Saturday, June 10. The parade lineup is at 10 a.m., starting at the Chester Town Hall. Contact John

Clark at 802-353-6043 to register a float or participate in the parade.

Immediately following the parade, all alumni are asked to gather at the Chester American Legion for the annual barbecue.

Wilson & Lawrence Inc. in Grafton, Vt. is hiring for our summer crews working on tennis courts paying \$20 per hour

Please call 802-732-8494 Mon-Fri

Also, on Friday, June 9, all alumni are welcome and encouraged to gather at Chester American Legion. A band, Mean Toad Band, all local alumni, will be performing a mix of 70s, 80s, and 90s music.

Any donations to the Chester Green Mountain Alumni Association can be mailed to P.O. Box 882, Chester, VT 05143.



Whiting Library celebrates National Library Week —

the Beatles will be featured.

CHESTER, Vt. - The Whiting Library is celebrating National Library Week, April 23-29. Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats, from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. "Libraries of Things" lend items like museum passes, take away bins, cake pans, and garden tools. Library

programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, story times, lectures, and other opportunities. Library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

Come into the library for National Library Week and put your name into a raffle to win a puzzle for book lovers. The library trustees are holding a Fill-a-bag Book Sale Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29, in the book sale room. Fill a provided grocery bag from Smitty's Chester Market for a small fee. All proceeds go to benefit the library's collection and programs.

For upcoming library events, please visit our website, www.whitinglibrary.org or call 802-875-2277.

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Springfield student wins 2023 Growing Works of Art contest

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If 2023 Growing Works of Art the number of entries in the contest is any indication,

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Vermont students have a deep appreciation for trees, both in their own backyard and local woodlands.

A total of 228 Grade K-8 students submitted a work of art using any medium, and a written story relating to the theme "Branching Out." For their entry, students were asked to describe a meaningful experience where they have grown, changed, connected, or learned something new because of a tree or trees in their lives

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program sponsored the annual contest in partnership with University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Entries were judged half on creativity and originality, and half on how well the student conveyed their story through writing and art. Many of the entries were from schools where the teachers incorporated the contest into their English, art, or science curricu-

The top entries are posted online at www.go.uvm. edu/growingart. Locally, Springfield homeschool student Carly Stone was named the winner for eighth graders across the state. Carly's story is as fol-

"MAPLE SYRUP

My great-grandparents had a sugar house and made maple syrup every year. I love maple syrup. I put it on lots of different foods, like pancakes and waffles or maple sugar on muffins that my grandmother makes. But I'm not as much of a fan of maple syrup as my mom and sister. Making maple syrup can be a difficult process and takes a long time. You must boil all the water out of the sap, then it thickens, and then it is ready to be jarred. It can take days to complete this process.

As you probably know, maple syrup comes from maple trees. In Vermont, maple syrup is a huge industry, so it affects many people here because it makes so many different products. You can make maple candy, syrup, cotton candy, ice cream, and barbecue sauce. In short, I created a maple tree to represent Vermont, the place I have grown up in and love."

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of Chester Historical Society, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

Ron Patch is a Chester

native, past President

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email ronpatch27@gmail.com

A "novel" idea

I have an idea for a new book. As I go around visiting friends, I hear countless stories of days gone by. Whether it's Bob Turco, Bill Burton, the Kendall family, or Ted and Danny, everyone has stories. I couldn't live long enough to record them all. I've often said, "I wish someone had done a hundred years ago what I do today." Think of what has been lost.

Some of these stories explain how things were done in the past, what really matters, or who Vermonters are as a culture. Some stories make me chuckle. So I asked several friends if they would write their stories for this

Everyone likes the idea. Some say they can't write. I get that, but all you have to do is tell a story as if you were talking with me. Editing can clean it up and make you look good. Although I believe misspellings, improper grammar, sometimes make a story more authentic.

Ever hear of a car race from Chester to Springfield on the old road? That wasn't unusual, but this race was done in reverse gear.

You'll learn about some of our quirky ways. Our language, our way of life that sometimes puzzles newcomers. If nothing else,

their life. In a respectful,

confidential, and non-

threatening manner, staff

help clients to set their

own goals, create strate-

gies to achieve them, and

help them to understand

and change their rela-

April is Alcohol Aware-

ness Month. Organized

by the National Council

on Alcoholism and Drug

Dependence in 1987, this

awareness event was de-

signed to educate people

on the dangers of alco-

hol, as well as reduce the

stigma which often pre-

tionship with alcohol.

we are independent.

I have a number of stories to write. Some are too long for the paper or maybe a little too risqué. I want to write are about Vermonters I have known. These stories are fun and revealing.

Some stories can't be shortened to fit my column, because they would lose their value. Some stories will have "naughty words," as Lee Kendall calls them. These are not appropriate for the paper, but will be fine in the book.

One old Vermonter I was buying antiques off said, "let's go up attic." I commented that I hadn't heard that before. He said, "you go down cellar, don't you?"

Gaymont woolen mill in Ludlow.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

I will ask Kevin Gould and Frank Kendall to submit more of their poetry. Maybe you write poetry. If so I'd like to hear from you.

Over the years I've met a number of Vermonters who create objects of art from out of nothing. For me, folk art is the truest art form. Maybe you create lawn art from found objects. Perhaps you paint or carve. I know we have a number of creative people living amongst us.

I'm not interested in those who already have a voice or platform. I'm looking for the person who creates for their own enjoyment or amusement. Is this you? If so, I would like to talk with you. It would be fun.

I think a good story for someone to write would be the carnival held every summer at the Catholic church. I remember Al Cross, Elmer Butler, and I think Jim Lovett running the muffin tins. The Ferris wheel, other rides, cotton candy, and games of chance or skill are distant memo-

I asked Donna Mitchell Leclair if she would write a few stories. She is onboard with the project and will submit several stories. Donna grew up where Mitch's Maples is today.

Donna sent me a story over the weekend. It's about the time her parents hosted a black boy from New York City through the

Fresh Air Kids program. It is well written, and easy to read.

I will compile the stories, organize, and preedit. Amanda will finish editing. Shawntae lays out the pages in the book making it print ready. I love Vermont and its people. If you feel the same way, help me make this happen.

Based on previous books I've written, March is the best time of year to release a book. Cabin fever wanes. A new book will sell well this time of year, so I want to publish next March. So we have

This is your chance to record your stories for posterity. Oral history is fine, but lost with passing generations. Leave you kids and grandkids something more perma-

The photo with this article is the Gaymont woolen mill in Ludlow. Notice the old cars.

This week's old saying is a bumper sticker I once saw: "Pedestrians, New York's number one bumper crop."

Alcohol

Awareness Month

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Have you wondered whether alcohol is beginning to negatively impact your life, or that of a loved one? Are you concerned about the number of drinks you are consuming each week, or perhaps you're binging alcohol on the weekends? Are you worried about the impact of alcohol on your relationships, your work, your involvement in the criminal justice system, or

your overall health? Vermonters consume more alcohol than the national average, according to the Vermont Department of Health's website. Alcohol is the most abused substance in Vermont, and Vermont deaths due to the overuse of alcohol doubled from 2017 to 2021. These statistics can be found at www.wcax. com/2023/02/08/vermontalcohol-report-shows-increase-deaths.

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental health agency, provides substance use services and is available to help residents of Windham and Windsor counties who want to reduce their alcohol use.

According to HCRS CEO George Karabakakis, Ph.D., "We have seen an increase in people seeking services since the Covid pandemic. Community members have experienced increased stress due to anxiety, isolation, and other impacts of the pandemic, resulting in their turning to alcohol."

HCRS works with clients to look at how they think, make decisions, engage in relationships, address selfcare, and set boundaries with others, opening people up to possibilities for change.

Experienced and licensed HCRS counselors are available to help people examine how alcohol use affects

BRAM third floor BRHS exhibit LUDLOW, Vt. - The museum and the senior lected antique trophies and

1939 through 2020.

All areas of the mu-

public from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., and the Black River Senior Center next door will be open for indoor

vents people from seeking help. services in southeastern Vermont, reach out to HCRS at 855-220-9429 for the Springfield area. You can also view their website, www.hcrs.org,

Black River Alumni Association and the Black River Academy Museum are collaborating to celebrate the grand opening, on June 10, of the special third-floor room commemorating the history of Black River High School, which educated Ludlow students from

seum will be open to the

FOOD SHELF **BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES** 37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149 Hours: Monday-Friday,

"We are here to help"

Many glass cases in the museum hold new exhibits, including athletic trophies and plaques, and mementos from the Black River High School Band and the Glee Club. Also on display are mannequins of cheerleaders and majorettes, binders of scripts and photos of the school's theatrical productions, and material produced by students who competed in many years of the National History Proj-

> in 1890 lies in a glass case. When hunger strikes, step outdoors between the

> ect. A book signed by ev-

ery graduating senior since

Calvin Coolidge graduated

from Black River Academy

center for hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream sodas. A complete set of yearbooks will be displayed there, with some duplicates for sale. Se-

duplicate photos will also be on sale.

A small buy-in will admit you to a corn hole tournament, winner take all.

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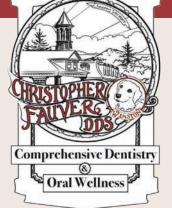
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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the folks who attended the childcare discussion on April 22 at the Springfield Library. The Springfield Democratic Town Committee is committed to making our legislators more accessible to the public, and facilitating conversations about issues that concern all of us.

Childcare is not a partisan issue. It is a complex issue that impacts communities, families, and the work force. There are equity issues around accessing quality childcare, especially in the more rural areas of Vermont. The Vermont legislature has been listening to testimony, and based on what they have learned the proposed legislation will focus on five key things: equity, accessibility, affordability, work force issues, and raising the status of childcare in the government.

I would also like to thank our presenters not only for giving up part of their Saturday morning, but for the passion and advocacy they bring to the table. So thanks to Rep. Theresa Wood, the chair of the House Committee on Human Services; Rachel Hunter, coordinator for the Springfield School District's PreK program; Ariel Rose, Play Works Director at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center; and Sarah Kenney from "Let's Grow

If you missed the discussion Saturday, it will be available soon on SAPA T.V. You can also keep track of the bill, S.56, by going to the legislative website, www. legislature.vermont.gov. The Let's Grow Kids website, www.letsgrowkids.org, has ongoing information on the legislation as it works its way through the legislative process, and ways you can advocate for affordable and accessible childcare.

Sincerely, Char Osterlund Chair, Springfield Democratic Town Committee

Dear Editor,

According to a recent story in VT Digger (4/14/23), 40 Readsboro residents signed a petition requesting that the town close its elementary school. The same thing is happening in Windham this year. Both petitions reflect a trend to undervalue small community schools, and accept the opinion that closing the local school and sending children to larger consolidated schools is better. There is no evidence that supports this opinion, and the effect and perhaps the purpose of these petitions is to divide and confuse the community.

A year ago, a group of concerned citizens who appreciate the value of the Windham school founded a non-profit group to show the advantages of town and school cooperation. Thanks to generous donations from residents, bake sales, and raffles, they raised the money to replace the worn-out linoleum floor in the school's multipurpose room with a new maple floor that community volunteers worked weekends and vacations to install

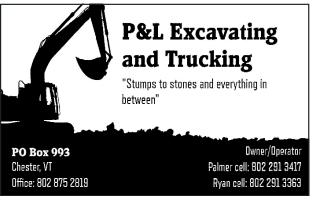
This group of small school supporters also built a row of raised bed gardens with planks donated by a local mill. Students planted the vegetables and flowers they had started in their classrooms, and over the summer, community volunteers

and students took turns keeping the beds watered. In September there was a well-attended harvest festival, "Potato Day," with a bonfire, music, and games. Other projects included a new sandbox, also built with donated planks from the local sawmill, and work on the school nature trail.

Between now and May 20, Windham's Town Meeting Day this year, there will be a vote on the petition to close the school. The petitioner's argument is that parents will have a choice about where their children attend elementary school. This is misleading. The Windham children will not have the choice to attend their local town school, because it will be gone. And unless parents have the time to transport their children to and from an out-of-town school, the only "choice" for young Windham children is to ride the early bus down the moun tain to Townshend with the high school students.

I believe that the people in Windham should reject the petition to close their school, and work together so that the students receive a well-rounded, communitysupported, public education in their own village school.

Sincerely, John Beagan West Windham, Vt.



"Time for a Change" Diaper Bank at Parks Place Community Center

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Edward Jones branch office in Bellows Falls, located at 16 The Square, will be accepting donations for Parks Place Community Center's "Time for a Change" diaper bank, from May 1-31. The branch is open Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. -

4 p.m. The items needed for the diaper drive include diapers size 4, 5, and 6, pull ups of all sizes, and baby wipes. Diapers of any size will be accepted. Please note that monetary donations cannot be accepted.

Proceeds from the drive will benefit the "Time for a Change" Diaper Bank.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in

the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.6 trillion in client assets under care at the end of 2022. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at www.edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is www.careers. edwardjones.com.

Grace Cottage wins Best Place to Work

TOWNSHEND, Vt. -Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has been named one of Vermont's Best Places to Work in this year's con-

The award, given each year by Vermont Business Magazine, in partnership with the Vermont Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Vermont Department of Commerce and Community Development, and the Workforce Research Group, is designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Vermont, benefiting the state's economy, workforce, and businesses.

Grace Cottage was the only hospital to win an award this year.

The Best Places to Work contest includes three categories, small businesses (15-99 employees), medium businesses (100-249 employees), and large businesses (250 or more employees). Grace Cottage was one of 12 companies in the medium-size category. A total of 57 awards were presented this year. The awards ceremony was held on March 29 in Burlington.

Companies from across the state entered the contest's two-part process to determine the best places to work in Vermont. First, each nominated company was evaluated for its workplace policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 20% of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an employee survey, to measure the employee experience, with this score worth approximately 80% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Workforce Research Group managed the registration and survey process, analyzed the data, and used their expertise to determine the final rank-

Located in Townshend, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital includes a 19-bed critical access hospital, with round-the-clock emergency care, inpatient acute care, skilled rehabilitation, lab, and diagnostic imaging; an outpatient rehabilitation department, consisting of physical and occupational therapy; a rural health clinic, providing primary care and mental health services; a retail pharmacy; and a community wellness center. For more information, visit www. gracecottage.org.

HCRS named Best Place to Work, Vermont

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health agency, was named one of Vermont's Best Places to Work in 2023, for the third year in

Winners are chosen based on an in-depth, confidential survey of staff covering all aspects of the employee experience. Staff feedback contributes to approximately 80% of the agency's evaluation. A comprehensive

questionnaire was also completed by HCRS, providing the agency's policies, practices, and workforce demographics, for the remainder of the assessment.

"We feel honored to receive this important recognition for the third year in a row," said George Karabakakis, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at HCRS. "One of our key strategic priorities is to foster a culture of care across our workforce. This award celebrates the emphasis we have placed on employee relations, engagement, and benefits."

HCRS offers a generous benefits package, including unique options such as stipends for snow tires and CSAs, interest-free loans for personal computers, and a free meditation app, just to name a few. The agency's flexible work schedules and work from home options are two other benefits that contribute to employee satisfac-

they need to change their

lives. Changing lives with

the right resources is the

Parks Place mission. Gay is

the youngest member of the

Parks Place board at 29, and

she wishes more millennials

and gen Z youth would seek

board positions. Vermont

institutions need young

voices to keep their services

Inn, she knows the Bellows Falls community well. Go-

votski's connections have

been forged over many years

living in Vermont, and her

husband and children offer

additional Rockingham per-

Two important services

that Parks Place is focusing

on are harm reduction bags,

and the diaper bank. Turn-

ing Point, which is housed in

the carriage barn, has harm

reduction bags available.

These bags include test strips

for drugs, and Narcan - crit-

ical, life-saving supplies if

someone you love is using

Kathleen Govotski comes

in tune with young seekers.

and Windsor counties annually. Their staff of more than 500 work out of 16 locations across southeastern Vermont and provide services in local schools and homes, as well as in the community.

Vermont's Best Places to Work program is presented by Vermont Business Magazine, the Vermont Department of Economic Development, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont State Council. For more information on the Best Places to Work in Vermont program, visit www. bestplacestoworkvt.com.

New board members at Parks Place

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -How does Parks Place Community Resource Center in Bellows Falls stay in touch with a changing world? The staff at Parks Place sees changes every day, and the board of this 25-year nonprofit seeks out differing perspectives. The two new board members are Krista Gay, a young lawyer from Athens, and

Kathleen Govotski, activist with the Rotary Club of Bellows Falls and the Chamber of Commerce.

Krista Gay is a first-generation college graduate, who has returned to her roots in Vermont. Coming from a low-income background, Gay focuses on the difference free résumé help and Department of Labor counseling make to teenage parents, providing the resources

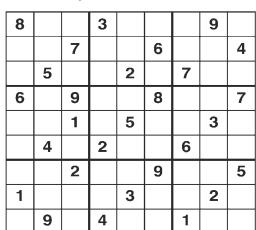
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. EF-FECTIVE MARCH, 2023, we will be charging for POLITICAL LETTERS. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal &

to the board with years of small business experience and family Italian and Irish traditions. As a founder of Halladays herb business and May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and florist shop, and the Harvest

The Shopper.

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



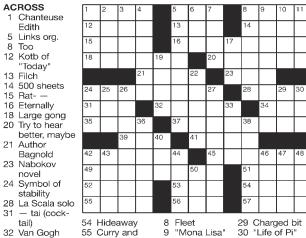
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the

numbers from one to nine. **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** •

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword



54 Hideaway 32 Van Gogh 55 Curry and painter 10 Rani's wrap Landers 56 "Game, venue 34 Mafia boss 35 Hostels 37 Vespers match!"
57 Dele undoer

39 Secret agent 41 Ms. DOWN Brockovich 1 Excellent, in 42 Ceremony slang 45 Slanted type Speck 49 The whole

crowd

53 Some coll.

degrees

52 Lure

51 Actress Fisher

Leading man? Plump up Opening night State VIP

shepherd

"Still Crazy" 19 "Puppy Love' singer 22 Look (into)

24 Brit. record 25 Moving vehi cle 26 Genius 27 Most skepti-

cal

director Lee 33 Tizzy Portent Stephen of 36 Gushes forth 38 Slowpokes 40 "Rah!" 42 Ms. McEntire

43 Infamous tsar 44 High tennis shots 46 Aspiring atty, 's exam

47 "Would — to you?"

48 Shopper's aid 50 Scot's refusal

HCRS is based out of

Springfield, Vt. and provides mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services for more than 4000 individuals across Windham

> drugs. You can pick them up from Turning Point during business hours, no questions asked. Parks Place is here to help connect you.

April is the month of the young child, and Parks Place has some exciting resources for parents. While the diaper bank is not new to Parks Place, the increase in need is. Living in the post-Covid era has stretched people's budgets, challenging our ability to access basic needs. The diaper bank is here to help support families. Again, no questions asked. While you're picking up diapers, ask about the playgroups in the area for mothers and fa-

For more information about Parks Place Community Resource Center, or to donate, walk in the door at 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls, or call 802-463-2297. You can also visit our website at www.parksplacevermont.org. Parks Place serves a wide community, both town and rural, without questions. Director Jennifer Heidbrink welcomes invitations to spread the word about the programs Parks Place supports.

Shawntae Webb Publisher, Ad Designer publisher@vermontjournal.com ads@vermontjournal.com

Padraic Scanlon

Sales Representative sales@vermontjournal.com

Nick Giberti Editor, Calendar of Events editor@vermontjournal.com calendar@vermontjournal.com

Paula Benson Billing Manager, Staff Writer billing@vermontjournal.com

802-228-3600

CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.

Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m., led by Pastor Maureen Adams. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@ gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook. com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St. Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Masks are optional. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Services are on Wednesdays at 5:30-6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www. stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Please wear a mask, socially distance, and stay home if you're unwell. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/ calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jckurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670. Because state restrictions have been lifted, masks are not obligatory.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106

Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Women's Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.

Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. All services and in-church activities have resumed. Masks are available and social distancing is encouraged. The sanctuary seating is arranged to promote distancing. Go to www.facebook.com/ Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.

Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.

Sunday worship is 9:30 a.m. Everyone should wear masks and physically distance themselves from others. For more information, call 802-885-1916. Everyone is welcome.

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Elaine Boynton, 1942-2023

CHARELSTOWN, N.H. -Elaine Boynton, 80, passed away peacefully in her home on April 19. Elaine was born in Rockingham, Vt., to

the late Burdette Pease and Elizabeth (Jones) Pease on Nov. 9, 1942. Elaine attended Charles-

town High School, class of 1960, and worked for Cray Oil Company in North Walpole and M&W Soils Engineering in Charlestown as an administrative assistant, where she was always a friendly and helpful co-worker who brought a lively and fun spirit to every room she was in. She was a champion full-time mom and meme, raising her two children and three grandchildren, sharing her energy, fun spirit, and endless love. She was always cheering for the kids and their friends, and frequently volunteered for school events or committees. The arrival of her first great-grandson in 2021 brought her endless moments of joy in her final

Elaine was a long-time member of the Charlestown Women's Club, and active with the Charlestown Area Christmas Fund. Christmas was her favorite time of year, when the Boynton house was known for its beautiful Christmas decorations, including a Christmas tree in every room of the house for the Women's Club Christmas House Tours fundraiser. She was also proud of her involvement with the fundraising campaign to beautify Main Street with the lovely lampposts that still adorn the town today, with flowers in the summer, and wreaths

in the winter. Elaine is survived by her devoted husband of 56 years, John Boynton, of North Charlestown, N.H.; her daughter Deborah (Boynton) Blanc and her husband Matt Blanc of Charlestown, N.H.; her son Todd Boyn-



Elaine Boynton, 19420-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

ton and his wife Lorri (Demond) Boynton of North Charlestown, N.H.; her three grandchildren, Emily (Boynton) St. Pierre and her husband Gabe St. Pierre of North Charlestown, N.H., Austin Boynton and his wife Samantha (Weick) Boynton and their son, Elaine's only great-grandchild and light of her life, Parker Douglas Boynton, of Charlestown, N.H., and Samantha Blanc and her fiancé Christopher Bogossian, of Manchester, Vt. She was predeceased by both her parents and an infant sister.

Calling hours will be held at the Charlestown Memorial Chapel at 34 Main Street, Charlestown, N.H., on Saturday, April 29, from 1-3 p.m., followed by a reception for friends and family at 213 Pepere's Road, North Charlestown, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Elaine's memory to David's House, 461 Mount Support Road, Lebanon, NH 03766 or online at www.davids-house.org, or the Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave, Floor 17, Chicago, IL. 60601 or online at www.alz.org

Arrangements are with Stringer Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 146 Broad Street, Claremont, 03743. To view an online memorial or send a private message of condolence, visit www.stringerfh.com.

Lois Whidden, 2023

Lois peacefully crossed over early Thursday morning, April 20, with family by her side. She was born in Bellows Falls and grew up in Alstead, N.H. Lois was the first of five children born to Elizabeth (Stella) and Harold Winham.

Lois' lifelong love of horses, dogs, and other animals started early, providing joy and many rich tales to fondly recall. She graduated from Vilas High School, Class of 1962, a tight group that stayed in touch.

On Nov. 24, 1962, she married Robert H. Steele of Bellows Falls. The pair built a wonderful life together until his sudden death in 1999.

Lois excelled at her professional work life. She was always so committed, in fact: Peerless Insurance, Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Major Real Estate, co-owner and licensed agent at Emporium Real Estate, Vermont Business Magazine, Town Crier, and when she retired she continued doing accounting for the church. Always striving to do her best, she earned her degree from Community College of Vermont as an adult.

In 2000 she had a second chance at love, and married Wayne Whidden of Athens, Vt. They happily shared their love of animals, horseback riding, travel, and the church community. Together they stood strong through bouts of cancer and anything that came their way.

Lois was instrumental in getting the Susan G. Komen Vermont Ride for the Cure off the ground. It has remained a successful event, her side, pitching in with an infectious smile.

Lois left behind her husband Wayne, her daughter Diana (Scott) Nelson, her grandchildren Jennifer (Jon) Shaink and their two daughters, Luke Nelson and his partner Jennifer Matuszewski, and Katie Nelson, and her siblings Margaret (Gene) Gacek, Nancie (Ralph) Jarvis, Donna Winham, and John Howell. She was pre-deceased by her brother Kenneth Winham. She also leaves behind nieces and nephews Amanda Wesseldine, Andrew Gacek, Justin Jarvis, and their families, as well as dear cousins and other extended family.

Calling hours will take place on Tuesday April 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls. A Funeral Service followed by fellowship will be held on Wednesday, April 26, at 1 p.m. at Christian Community Church, Athens, Vt. Burial will be private earlier

If you wish to honor her by supporting the ride, please send checks payable to Susan G. Komen, with memo "2023 VT Ride for the Cure, in memory of Lois Whidden." Mail to Susan G. Komen, MA300, P.O. Box 801889 Dallas, TX 75380.

If you wish to honor her by supporting the church, checks to the Christian Community Church can be sent to 26 Brookline Road. Athens, VT 05143

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

OBITUARIES:

A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Death notices 50 words or fewer are free. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

Ernest Crosier, 2023

CHESTER, Vt. - A graveside service for Ernest "Ernie" Crosier, who passed away Feb. 8, 2023, will be held on May 5 at 11 a.m. can Legion; casual attire is at the Brookside Cemetery

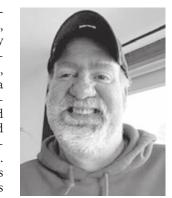
in Chester, Vt. Reverend Thomas Charleton will officiate. A reception will follow at the Chester Ameri-

Matthew A. Cross, 1968-2023

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. -Matthew Alan Cross, 54, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Feb. 27. Matthew was born on Oct. 29, 1968, to Gary and Donna (Barrows) Cross in Springfield, Vt. He attended Weathersfield schools, and graduated from Springfield High School in 1987. He made several records in track and field and cross country. He attended Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa., making varsity track and field and cross country his freshman year.

He worked at Hancor from the time they opened until they closed, from laborer to supervisor.

He is survived by his wife Jaime Howland Cross, his parents Gary and Donna of Perkinsville, Vt., his son Cody of Truckee, Calif., his sister Jennifer Tucker of Hartford, Vt., his niece Crystal Tucker and nephew Michael Tucker, nieces Baylee and Brooklyn Howland,



Matthew Cross, 1968-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

and Caitlin and Lilly Kurkul, several aunts, uncles, and numerous cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 7 from 2-4 p.m. at the Weathersfield School in Ascutney.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Heart-Brothers Foundation at www.heartbrothers.org, 225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 200, Marlborough, MA 01752.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. is assisting with arrangements.

Mary F. Brandt, 2023

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -On April 7, our dear mother Mary Frances Brandt passed away from complications resulting from a broken hip. She was 90 years old. She is survived by her three children Robert Brandt, Brenda Canfield, and William Brandt, eight grandchildren, and eleven greatgrandchildren. She has a surviving brother, Richard Damon, and was predeceased by brothers Melvin Damon and Dennis Damon. She also had several beloved nieces and nephews.

"Mary Sunshine," as she was known to so many, had a rich and full life, BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - and Wayne was always by with many friends around her homes in Vermont and Florida. She held a master's degree in education, and was a beloved elementary school teacher for many years in southern Vermont. Mary travelled to Maine every year with friends, and enjoyed travelling to Canada, the Caribbean, and around the U.S. with family and friends. She loved being a member of Eastern Star, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Red Hats. Mary was an avid



Mary Brandt, 2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

amateur photographer, and loved painting and crafts. She will be missed by so

Mary was a member of ne Westminster Congrega tional Church. A memorial service will be held there on Saturday, May 13, at 3 p.m. A private interment with immediate family will happen at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Westminster Cares,

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls,

Martin Nitka, 2023

LUDLOW, Vt. - An early calling hour for Martin Nitka will be held Saturday April 29, from 8:30-9:30

a.m. at the Ludlow Town Hall, followed by the memorial service at 10 a.m.

CHURCH SERVICES:

We run Church

Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www. VermontJournal.com.



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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

APRIL 27 -

LUDLOW, Vt. - There will be home cooked ham and scalloped potatoes, veggies, and dessert, all for a donation, at the Black River Valley Senior Center, at 10 High Street in Ludlow, on April 27, at noon. Seating is limited, and reservations are suggested. Everyone is welcome.

APRIL 29 -

ALSTEAD, N.H. - Charles F. Andros, former apiary inspector for Vermont and New Hampshire, will hold a beekeeping workshop from 1-4 p.m., at 18 McLean Road in Alstead, N.H. He will discuss topics relating to early spring apiary management, such as locating apiaries, equipment, bee handling, feeding, and more. Bring a veil if you have one. Registration is required. To register, call 603-756-9056, or email lindenamel@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music at VFW Post 771, located at 191 River Street, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

MAY 1-31 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Edward Jones branch office in Bellows Falls, located

at 16 The Square, will be accepting donations for Parks Place Community Center's "Time for a Change" diaper bank, from May 1-31. The branch is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The items needed for the diaper drive include diapers size 4, 5 and 6; pull ups of all sizes, and baby wipes. Diapers of any size will be accepted. Please note than monetary donations cannot be accepted.

MAY 5 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -There will be a First Friday supper held at the First Baptist Church, 9 Church Street in Bellows Falls, from 5-6:30 p.m. Serving burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, dessert, and beverages. There is a small suggested donation, and all proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels volunteers. For takeout, call 802-463-3220.

MAY 6 -

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. - The Community Contra Dance and Social will be held at the Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse, 2579 Weathersfield Center Road, from 7-9 p.m. Contra dancing is a traditional New England folk dance style

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT PLANNING COMMISSION **RECORDING SECRETARY**

The Town of Ludlow Planning Commission has an opening for the position of Recording Secretary for their meetings. This is a part-time position working 1-2 hours per month under the general direction of the Municipal Manager.

Principal duties include attending monthly Planning Commission meetings, taking notes, recording the meeting, preparing meeting minutes and forwarding minutes to Municipal Office for posting. Candidate will be able to work independently. The successful candidate will have typing skills, some computer knowledge, and the ability to work well with others in a meeting environment. This position pays a stipend of \$126.00 per attended meeting.

Interested candidates should submit a Town employment application available at the Ludlow Town Office, 37 Depot eet, Ludlow, VT 05149 or online at www.ludlow.vt.us and send to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. The Town & Village of Ludlow is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN/VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

The Town of Ludlow invites applications for the position of Administrative Assistant/Operation Director. This is a fulltime, year-round position. Principal duties include accounting functions for the municipality with accounts payable, accounts receivable, water/wastewater billing and receivables, payroll and budgeting. Must be organized and able to communicate effectively in written and oral form. Proficiency with Microsoft Excel and Word is a must, experience with the NEMRC system a plus. Minimum qualifications include an Associates Degree in accounting/finance or similar work related experience.

Send application or resume to the Municipal Office or email to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled: Ludlow Municipal Office, PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT, 05149. (802)228-2841.

Position provides an excellent wage (DOE), comprehensive Municipal benefits, including full Health & Pension Plan. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT **PLANNING & ZONING** ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Town of Ludlow Planning & Zoning Department has an immediate opening for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Planning and Zoning Department. This is a part-time position, working 25-30 hours per week under the general direction of the Zoning Administrator.

Principal duties include a variety of administrative, clerical and professional work with a degree of difficulty, responsibility and confidentiality. Candidate will assist the Director to carry out planning and zoning functions and other related tasks, must possess excellent computer and typing skills and have the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with employees and the general public.

Minimum qualifications include an Associate's Degree in secretarial or business administration with three-years' experience in secretarial and administrative work or equivalent work/life experience.

Interested candidates should submit a Town employment application available at the Ludlow Town Office, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149 or online at www.ludlow.vt.us and send to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. The Town & Village of Ludlow is an equal opportunity employer.

in which couples dance in two facing lines, following the instructions of a caller. Participants will be taught and guided through the dance. No special clothing or footwear required. There will be potluck snacks during the break; feel free to bring simple finger food to share, as well as any beverages you'd like. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

MAY 7 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) will be holding their Afternoon Tea fundraiser, to benefit the BFWC Amy Searle's Scholarship, on May 7 from 2-4 p.m., at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster Street. There will be a raffle, and prizes will be awarded for hats and fascinators. Tickets can be purchased from BFWC club members, or by calling 802-463-4720.

SUNDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

MONDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Ext., Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah

at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School St Ext. in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www. oa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. - Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

WESTON, Vt. - Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

TUESDAYS -

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aquatic Aerobics, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

WEDNESDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Frances Barsky leads a weekly creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library from 1-2:30 p.m. Bring a laptop or a pen and paper.

THURSDAYS -TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT **2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Ludlow Highway Department invites applications for the position of **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**. This is a full-time, year round position. Principal duties will include plowing snow, sanding and salting roads, road construction and maintenance and other related duties. Must possess a valid VT Commercial Driver's License and have experience operating a dump truck with plow, sander, loader and excavator, backhoe and/or grader. General knowledge of vehicle maintenance, fundamental construction and maintenance procedures, public works, and equipment operation are a plus public works, and equipment operation are a plus.

Municipal Benefit Package includes health & dental insurance, retirement plan and paid vacations **PLUS** a \$2,000.00 Sign-On Bonus. Employment applications are available at the Ludlow Municipal Office or on-line at www.ludlow.vt.us. Please submit completed applications to the Ludlow Municipal Office PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149, (802) 228-2841 or email to transpage of the path Applications will be accepted until 2841 or email to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Public Hearing Notice Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard **Regulation Amendments**

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441 and §4444, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by the Ludlow Planning Commission to hear comments regarding proposed amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments. The public hearing will take place during the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm.

You may attend the Public Hearing in-person at the following address:

Ludlow Town Hall 37 Depot Street

Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments may be submitted verbally at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted via email to Terry Carter, Ludlow Planning Commission Chair, at tmgcarter@gmail.com or Martha Harrison, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, at mharrison@marcvt.org Pursuant to the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4444(b): Statement of purpose:

The purpose of the proposed amendments is as follows: • to ensure that employee housing meets the needs of employees, employers, and abutting property owners; • to clarify the difference between residential and commer-

cial structures and uses; • to establish permitting and review processes for employee

housing and changes of use; • to allow for reductions in minimum parking requirements for employee housing under certain circumstances; and • to incorporate new and modified definitions in Article 7.

Geographic areas affected: Portions of these amendments apply to all areas of the

<u>List of section headings affected:</u>

The proposed amendments make the following modifications to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments:

• Article 5 (General Regulations) is modified to include Section 520.14 Conversions and Changes of Use, and Section 520.15 Employee Housing.

• Article 7 is modified to include the following new definitions: employee housing, transient, short-term

• Article 7 is modified to include the following revised definitions: Bed & Breakfast, Boarding House/Rooming House,

The full text of the amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations is available online at https://www.ludlow.vt.us The proposed amendments can be reviewed in hard copy format in the Town Clerk's Office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Cardio & Sculpt, Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aqua Sculpt, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - On Thursdays at 6 p.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

GRAFTON, Vt. - A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be

held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-

FRIDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Fridays from 11 a.m. -12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS -

LUDLOW, Vt. - Zumba classes, Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Yoga, Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www. dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

DAILY -

REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt. org or call your local hotline at 802-885-8281 and join a meeting.

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE 5/1/2023 THROUGH 5/12/2023

Periodically, in Springfield, Vermont, we clean water mains of harmless corrosion and accumulated foreign matter by opening hydrants and allowing the water to escape under high pressure. The flushing action is an important part of our program to maintain high quality water.

Although such flushing may produce temporary discoloration, the safety of the water is not affected in any way. HOWEVER, we advise you to schedule clothes washing and cleaning projects at other time.

All mains will be flushed between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. During the time this work is performed, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE AFFECTED. It is suggested that restaurants, laundromats, etc. keep their use to a minimum until water clears. The water system will be riled and cloudy, but this condition will clear up upon completion of the work.

Springfield Water Department

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

HELP WANTED MAINTENANCE WORKER II/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker II / Truck Driver position within the Public Works Department, with a minimum of two to three years' experience. Requires the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of trucks, light-duty motor equipment and manual labor. Must be able to make accurate reports of materials hauled and maintenance scheduled. Reports to the Highway Superintendent and/or Working Foreman. A Maintenance Worker II/Driver is often required to work independently and will occasionally supervise. Requires an understanding of job safety, a valid motor vehicle operator's license, and a CDL B license. Grade 14, Pay Scale of \$17.70 to \$24.19 per hour. This is a non-exempt union position with an EXCEL-LENT benefits backage. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (toshr@vermontel. net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED Maintenance Worker III/Vactor Truck Driver

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking an experienced

individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker III/Vactor Truck Driver position within the Public Works Department. This is a full-time temporary position that will become permanent after 6 months. Desired candidate must have the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of sewer collections. Must be able to make accurate reports of material hauled and maintenance scheduled. Operates Vactor truck and light duty motor equipment, and hand tools necessary to perform repair functions. Must possess all desired knowledge, abilities and physical capabilities necessary to perform heavy manual labor for long hours under varying and often rugged climatic conditions. A valid motor vehicle operator's license and a valid CDL (with Tanker endorsement) is required. This position is non-exempt and requires the employee to be on call. Pay Grade 16, Pay Scale \$18.95 - \$26.02 per hour with an excellent benefits backage. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (toshr@vermontel.net). Applications and a complete job description can be found at springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

AUCTION

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Auction held on May 6, 2023, at 11 a.m. at 96 Rt. 106 N. Springfield, VT 05150. 802-683-7104. To be auctioned:

Ayla Hodge #82 Angelique Blake #153

BUYING/ SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at AN-TIQUE CENTERS in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

FOR SALE

LUDLOW/ANDOVER, Vt. -Firewood for sale! Cut to order. Please call for current pricing. 802-875-2076.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 1975 Corvette, needs work, \$3,500. 2010 Toyota Prius, high miles, good condition, \$2,000. 2005 Toyota Matrix, 130,000 miles, daily driver, \$2,500. Call 802-591-3144, leave message.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 12 foot Wilderness Systems kayak,

small cockpit, \$250. 17 foot Chesapeake Bay wooden kayak, handmade, \$300. Call 802-591-3144, leave message.

GUNS

REGION - Guns wanted. Handguns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-. 2859 or 802-236-7213.

HELP WANTED

CHESTER, Vt. - Search reopened; busy dental office seeks part-time receptionist to join our team. Must have outstanding telephone and interpersonal skills and basic computer literacy. This is a flextime position 20-30 hours per week. Previous medical/dental office experience preferred. Please send letter of interest and resume to: info@drchristopherfauver.com attn: hiring manager.

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Full time mechanic's helper/laborer. Call 603-381-0929.



Town of Plymouth, Vermont Highway Department Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a Town employee in its Highway Department. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great Municipal Benefit Package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

Please submit a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Weekly SUDOKU ___ King Crossword — Answers Answer Solution time: 22 mins. 8 1 6 3 7 4 5 9 2 9 2 7 5 8 6 3 1 4 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 6 3 9 1 4 8 2 5 7 2 8 1 6 5 7 4 3 9 7 4 5 2 9 3 6 8 1 3 6 2 7 1 9 8 4 5 1 7 4 8 3 5 9 2 6 5 9 8 4 6 2 1 7 3

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PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO UNIFIED **DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS**

The Chester Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont. This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The principal purpose of the proposed development bylaws amendment is to create a new Open Space (OS) District. The new Open Space zoning district will extend along the North Branch of the Williams River from Stone Village south to Peck Road on the main stem of the Williams River. The new Open Space district is located within FEMA's regulatory floodway and floodway fringe areas and will protect existing natural flood water storage areas in the event of a major flood. The section heading created by the proposed development bylaws amendment will be Section 2.10 Open Space (OS) District.

The full text of the proposed amendment to the Town of Chester Unified Development Bylaws may be viewed at the Town Clerk's office and on the home page of the Town's website at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 19th day of April 2023. Hugh Quinn, Planning Commission Chair

TOWN OF CHESTER POLICE LIEUTENANT

The Town of Chester is seeking an experienced law enforcement individual to serve as Police Lieutenant. This person will have a strong desire to provide the highest quality police services to the department and to the community. The Chester Police Department serves a population of approximately 3,144 residents and covers an area of approximately 56 square miles.

The Lieutenant is responsible for immediate supervision and control of all Department personnel and is personally responsible for their efficiency and effectiveness. The Lieutenant is second in command of the Department and is subject to the direction and control of the Chief. The applicant must possess strong leadership and administrative abilities with ten (10) years minimum full time law enforcement experience. Consideration will be given to total years of service in as much as they translate into evident knowledge and experience. Preference will be given to having previously held the rank of Sergeant.

Chester offers a competitive starting wage with shift differential, as well as an excellent benefit's package including participation in VMERS Group C retirement, MVP health insurance, paid sick time, vacation time, and personal time. Uniforms and police equipment are provided

Visit www.chestervt.gov/employment-opportunities for full requirements and a more detailed job description. Submit a resume to:

Town of Chester

ATTN: Chief Thomas Williams

P.O. Box 370

Chester, VT 05143

Interested applicants can also contact the Chester Police Department at (802) 875-2035 for more information. The Town of Chester is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Invitation to Bid The Town of Andover is seeking Winter Sand

bids for the 2023/24 season Submit bids for 3,000 yards of winter sand both FOB and delivered. The sand must be available for our trucks to haul

indicate whether more will be available if needed. Bids will be received until May 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. and will be opened at the Select Board Meeting on May 8, 2023 at 6:30

as of July 1, 2023 and meet town quality specifications. Please

p.m. at the Andover Town Office. Please mail bids to:

Andover Town Office - Winter Sand 953 Weston Andover Road Andover, Vermont 05143 or email to: clerk@vermontel.net

The Town of Andover reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Andover, VT this 24th day of April, 2023. Jeanette Haight, Clerk

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT **CAVENDISH, VERMONT**

The Town of Cavendish has an immediate opening for a fulltime Highway Department crew member.

This position has a competitive wage and excellent benefits package. Applicants are required to have current CDL, good driving and work records and must be in good physical health. Solid experience in construction and heavy equipment operation, including dump truck operation, is essential. This is a permanent position with retirement. plan. A comprehensive job description is available to serious applicants.

Applications, resumes and inquiries should be directed to: Cavendish Select Board Town of Cavendish Municipal Building 37 High Street, P.O. Box 126 Cavendish, Vermont 05142 (802) 226-7291 Cavendish is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF JAMAICA

The Town of Jamaica is looking for an organized and motivated candidate to serve as its Town Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector.

The treasurer is responsible for keeping the town's funds, including receipt, investment, and disbursement; keeping a record of taxes voted, billed, and collected; collecting other funds receivable by the town, and paying orders drawn on town accounts. The treasurer additionally serves as the delinquent tax collector and the Assistant Town Clerk as needed.

A bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration, or similarly applicable discipline is preferred (although not required), or a course of study in equivalent subjects. At least three years' experience in the area of accounting including experience managing payroll, employee benefits, and accounts payable and receivable is desirable.

A detailed job description is provided on the town website. The position is a 32 hour (4 days in office) per week position and includes benefits. Salary is commensurate with education, experience, and the ability to carry out assigned work.

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume including contact information for three professional references via email to townclerck@jamaicavermont.org or mailed to Town Clerk, PO Box 173, Jamaica, Vermont 05343. Questions can be directed to the town clerk at (802) 874-4681.

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT Vermont State Craft Center

68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111 Open Wed. 11-5, Fri. 11-7, Sat. 11-5

The Artist's Touch Open Wall Show

Crossing Boundaries in Thread and Paint Fiber Art Show by Julie Crabtree

April 28 & 29 Machine Stitchery Landscape Workshop with Julie Crabtree

May 20 Intro to Origami with Gloria Dufield

June 3 Spring Landscape in Watercolor with Rob O'Brien galleryvault.org

Builders/Contractors

APEX VENTURES, LLC -HOUSE PAINTING & PROPERTY SERVICES

Booking exterior painting for the Spring + Summer. Houses, decks, porches, garages + barns. Also offering Commercial + Residential Cleaning Services + Lawn Care with an Electric Push Mower. Email adam@apexventures.one for a free quote.

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(04/26/23 - TFN - 13)

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin. mortensen@gmail.com.

Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/22/23 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville.

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802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT

Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.

Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM! www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND 2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT

SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2023! REASONABLE RATES! 802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large (05/10/23 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/11/23 - TFN - 52)

Cleanouts

A BARE CLEANING

We do cleanouts of every sort, small and large. One room to entire estates. Free estimates, fully insured, lots of references. Call Reg at 802-376-4159.

Excavating

BOB N SON DIRT WORKS

Excavation/backhoe work, driveways graded/shurpak, ditches, tree work, and 45-foot lift rentals, keeping the homeowner in mind. Free estimates. Insured. Call or text Bob 802-345-3112.

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DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK • Legislative Update w/ State Rep. Tesha Buss

- United Church of Ludlow
- Calvary Church of Proctorsville
- Story Times Cavendish Library short videos

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)

arts & entertainment

Sara Juli brings new work to Next Stage -

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts is excited to welcome Sara Juli, a celebrated solo-performance artist, for a three-day artist-inresidence program. During her residency, Juli will develop her latest work, "Sara Juli's Naughty Bits," a piece commissioned by the Strand Theatre in Rockland, Maine.

"Juli has been a meaningful voice out of New York for so many years," says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts. "Her work is at the intersection of dance, text, and humor. As she applies those tools to explore sexual trauma, mental health, and victimhood, our audience will have the opportunity to have input on her new show. The beauty of this is that we will be able to present the show in the fall or winter to our audiences."

The residency will culminate in two free demonstration showings on April 29, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This showing of the piece in development will include an audience discussion with the artist on process, feedback, and dialogue.

"Sara Juli's Naughty Bits" is a performance piece that explores the impacts of trauma on the brain stemming from sexual assault as a child. Interweaving regressed thinking with a

conflicted inner voice, coupled with finding the humor in the tragic, the work breaks down victimhood to ultimately reclaim the mind.

The performance will ultimately feature an 80s-inspired visual design by Brooklyn-based Dirty Bandits and Justin Moriarty, dramaturgy by Michelle Mola, and costumes by Carol Farrell. Created, written, and performed by Sara Juli, "Sara Juli's Naughty Bits" will premiere in Maine in October 2023, with a performance scheduled for Next Stage Arts in Febru-

Carise Blanton and Brittany Ann Tranbaugh

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present singer/ songwriters Carsie Blanton and her quartet, plus Brittany Ann Tranbaugh, at Next Stage on Sunday, April 30, at 7 p.m.

Carsie Blanton writes anthems for a world worth saving. Inspired by artists including Nina Simone and Randy Newman, her songs encompass a wide range of genres, from sultry pop to punk-tinged Americana. Whether alone with her electric guitar, or fronting her "handsome band," Blanton delivers every song with an equal dose of moxie and mischief, bringing her audience together in joyful celebration of everything worth fighting for.

Since releasing her first album in 2002, Blanton has recorded seven more albums, appeared on NPR's Mountain Stage, and shared

the stage with the likes of Paul Simon, The Weepies, and Shawn Colvin. In February 2011, she toured with Anais Mitchell's "Hadestown," playing the role of Head Fate. Fragile and strong, with lush and cheerful arrangements infused with jazz elements, Blanton's latest album, "Love and Rage," is a reminder that the fight for racial and gender equity can - and should - have joyous mo-

Filled with songs bouncing between witty sarcasm and heartbreaking vulnerability, Brittany Ann Tranbaugh's first EP, "Quarter Life Crisis Haircut," features her 2022 John Lennon Songwriting Contest Song of the Year winner "Kiss You." In the last year, Tranbaugh has finally quit her office job to pursue a full-time music career, establishing herself as local favorite in the Philadelphia music scene, and recording a second EP, "Comets," to be released

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. For information, call 802-387-

Springfield Community Players present "9 to 5"—

The Springfield Community Players are proud to present "9 to 5 the Musical," by Dolly Parton, to open the 2023 season. This hilarious musical comedy is set in 1979, and covers themes such as sexism, stereotypes, love, and feminism.

"On the surface the show is about a group of secretaries fighting to gain the respect they deserve from their chauvinist boss, but there's so much more underneath," said director and Players President Sara Vitale. "The show deals with how we relate to each other as people, and the stereotypes we carry, but in a really funny, light hearted way." This is Sara's third time directing a musical for the Players, her first being "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in 2021, followed by "Gypsy" last year.

'Given my personality in real life, this has definitely been a difficult role to jump into. It's not easy playing a 'sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot," said

Louis Vitale, who plays the boss, Hart, referencing a line from the show, "but it's been so much fun."

Samuel Mathewes Clark, who plays mild-mannered Joe, says, "I love the collaboration and sense of community for the show. Everyone is bringing their best self to their characters and the show as a whole. We're all helping each other to succeed."

"Even though there has been a lot of progress in the work place with women's equality, the playing field isn't level yet. This is a really funny show that deals with some very serious issues that are still relevant today. I'm really enjoying the role of Violet, and digging into what motivates her," said Ashlee White. "The music and dancing is a wonderful bonus! It's been so much fun working with this talented cast. I hope our audience enjoys it as much as I do." Sara is joined again by

musical director Carol Cronce and choreographer Suzanne Stern, along with stage manager Patty Greene-Pawelczyk, costume designer len Pillsbury, all of whom

worked with her on "Gypsy." Sara is also mentoring Samantha Wood in assistant directing. The cast includes many faces which have graced the SCP stage in the past, as well as a group of actors who are new to the Players.

"I deeply believe that community theater should be inclusive, and so I'm thrilled that I was able to cast everyone who auditioned. It's awesome to have first-time actors in my cast, anchored by experienced leads. I couldn't be more proud of them all," Sara

Shows are May 13 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., and May 14 and 21 at 2 p.m. Doors open half an hour before the show. All seating is general admission. If you require special seating, please reach out to the players at 802-885-4098. Masks are required for May 13 and 14, and are optional for May 20 and 21. Tickets are available by calling the Players at the number above, at the door, or at the website at www. springfieldcommunityplayers.org. It is an intimate, 80-seat theater, so reserving or purchasing tickets in advance is encouraged.

The VAULT calls for submissions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Local artists are invited to show their work at Gallery at the VAULT in their Open Wall Show. This is a chance to display work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is a great opportunity for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists. The next show's theme is "On The Wild Side." Artists may bring in two works if they are

18 inches by 20 inches or smaller, or one work if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc. are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing

Artists may bring their May 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; creations in on Wednesday, Friday, May 12, 11 a.m. -

Open Wall Show submissions welcome.

PHOTO PROVIDED

May 13, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The show will be on display from May 17 to July For more information

6:30 p.m.; or Saturday,

please call Gallery at the VAULT at 802-885-7111. The gallery is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, Vt., and is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Fridays 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Gallery at the VAULT is online at www.galleryvault.

org, or on Facebook.

Kalos and Fern Maddie at Next Stage



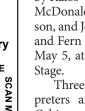
beginners always welcome

 May 20-21 Create Sterling Silver Fabricated Jewelry with Hal Bosco sign up by 5/10 TO LEARN MORE

• May 21 Create an Ash Bark Basket with Jennifer Lee sign up by 5/10

• May 27 Design and Create Wool

Felted Tapestry with Neysa Russo sign up 5/17



PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present an evening of traditional Celtic and folk music by Kalos – consisting of Eric McDonald, Ryan McKasson, and Jeremiah McLane and Fern Maddie on Friday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Next

Three innovative interpreters and composers of Celtic roots music - McDonald on the guitar, mandolin, and vocals; McKasson, on the fiddle, viola, and vocals;

and McLane on the accordion, piano, and vocals draw on years of experience performing with the likes of Cantrip, Nightingale, The Clayfoot Strutters, and Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, to forge a new musical path as Kalos. They are masters of tradition, who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges, delivering an alluring musical complexity full of spontaneity and joyful exuberance. Their individual artistry

traditional roots, and as a trio they move beyond this foundation, creating music that is compelling enough to transcend boundaries and appeal to music lovers of all stripes. Kalos' music asks to be shared live, and performance is the band's heart and forte.

Fern Maddie is a balladeer-songwriter and multiinstrumentalist, playing clawhammer banjo, guitar, and fiddle, and based

springs from these strong in Central Vermont. Her songs exploring themes of trauma, grief, and renewal, and modern interpretations of traditional ballads, have earned national and international acclaim. Her debut album "Ghost Story" was named #2 on The Guardian's Best Folk Album of 2022, and was listed on NPR's Best Roots Music of the year.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. www.nextstagearts.org.



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Refreshments Available









sports & outdoor

Grace Cottage's familyfriendly 5K -

Come out to the Townshend Town Common for the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital 5K, Saturday, May 13, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or push your baby carriage for this fun, family-friendly event.

Children younger than 18 can register for free with

signed parent or guardian permission; there is a registration fee for adults. Registration is open at www. gracecottage.org/events. A virtual option is also available. Register at the same

Second Wind will provide official timing. Last year's winners were Al Claussen of Townshend, with a time of 18:49, and Kelsey Taddei of Townshend, at 24:44 - while pushing two children in a stroller, and while supervising another child next to her on a bicycle.

For more information, email info@gracecottage. org or call 802-365-9109. All proceeds from this event will benefit healthcare services at Grace

Springfield Unified Basketball wins against Hartford, Middlebury-

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Monday, April 17, after Springfield returned from their spring break, the Cosmos hosted second home game to the Hartford Hurricanes.

The Cosmos took a 16-10 lead in the first quarter, with buckets from Lexy Bills, Emily Toner, Isaiah Short, Alana Blum and Sebastian Salls.

Coming off strong in the second quarter was senior Tim Jackson with eight points, along with four from Toner, two from Bills, and two from freshman Salls. These buckets gave the Cosmos a 32-26 lead at the half.

In the third quarter, Springfield was able to hold the Hurricanes to scoring seven points to Springfield's 10, which allowed them to keep the lead at 42-33. First time scorer Brianna Salo chipped in two points along with Patrick Toner's two.

In the 4th quarter, buckets from Bills, Jackson, Blum and Salls allowed Springfield to clinch the win. Total points for the night were: Tim Jackson with 14, Emily Toner with 10, Lexy Bills and Sebastian Salls each had eight, Alana Blum brought in four for the night, and Brianna Salo and Isaiah Short each chipped in two points.

The Cosmos then trekked



The Cosmos beat the Hurricanes on April 17.

north to take on the Middlebury Tigers on Wednesday, April 19. The trek was worthwhile, as Springfield brought home a win, which brings them to a 2-1 record with three games left to play before playoffs.

After the almost twohour ride, the Cosmos began the game with points from Bills, E. Toner, and Blum. Senior Blum was a threat to the Tigers with her aggressive rebounds and steals, however, the Tigers took a lead of 12-8 in the first quarter and a 22-16 lead at the half. Tigers #24 Stephen Nucilo and #30 Jayden Mahoney scored a total of 14 points in the first half, and controlled the boards.

In the second half of the game, the Cosmos held the Tigers to scoring only two points, with strong defense from the whole team. Blum's strong defense and steals allowed her to land

points in the third quarter, with buckets also from Salo, Bills, Jackson, and P. Toner. Each Cosmo was ready for battle, guarding with enthusiasm and aggressiveness to not let their opponents

score a basket. The Cosmos worked as a team, followed directions, and persevered throughout the contest. With the increase in defense and perseverance, the Cosmos ended the quarter with a 28-24

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers could not keep up with the determination from each Cosmos player. Springfield doubled the Tigers' points with 12-6 in the 4th quarter. Bills and E. Toner each scored four, and a basket from Jackson and Sam Bailey allowed Springfield to stay on top of their game and end with the win

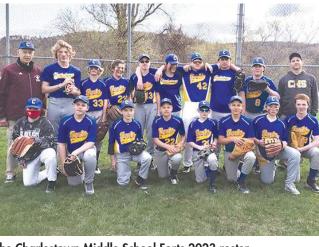
For the evening, Lexy Bills led the Cosmo with 14 points, Tim Jackson with eight, Alana Blum and E. Toner each with six, and P. Toner, Brianna Salo and Sam Bailey each chipped in two.

Forts baseball off to 2023 start —

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - Baseball season has started in the Connecticut River Valley, and the boys of summer - or in this case, springtime - are playing their home open-

The Charlestown Middle School Forts have entered the 2023 season with a fine roster of 16 eager players. The team came together with a fine, fast, and furious win over Sunapee in the coolness of the afternoon on Tuesday, April 18, at Patch Park in Charlestown.

Ten members of the team are sixth and seventh graders, five from each grade, who will cer-



The Charlestown Middle School Forts 2023 roster.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tainly have some playing time, and gain much valuable field experience for next year's schedule. The core group of players this year is the team's six eighth graders,

who had rounded out last year's rebuilding team with some hard-fought wins.

Written by Smokey Au-

Clean Water Restoration Roadshow

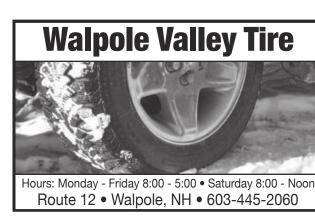
REGION - The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) is excited to announce a Clean Water Restoration Roadshow, planned in partnership with Marie Caduto from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC), aimed at highlighting natural resource restoration projects in the Black and Ottauquechee watersheds. Our goal is to increase awareness and transparency around environmental restoration work being done in the state of Vermont. Specifically, the multi-town tour will showcase six projects, from Springfield up to Woodstock, that were funded in part by Vermont's Clean Water

The event will be held on May 6, beginning at the Springfield Food Coop at 9:30 a.m., with an opportunity to arrive 30 minutes early for coffee and baked goods. From there, we will stop at several sites on the way to Woodstock, ending the day at the Sustainable Community Woodstock Garden. Participants are encouraged to join for one stop, come along for the whole ride, or hop on or off anywhere in between. Find more information or register at www.ctriver.org/ event/clean-water-restoration-road-show.

About the Clean Water *Fund* – With revenue from the Meals and Room Tax Allocation, Property Tax Surcharge, and unclaimed bottle deposits, the Clean Water Fund supports various natural resource restoration projects which aim specifically to improve water quality, as well as provide many other co-benefits such as improvements to wildlife habitat, increased flood resilience, and improvements for recreational access.

This tour will help to illustrate the myriad ways that clean water funding can be used to address stormwater runoff, plant trees, remove unused dams, and protect our wetlands and natural resources. "Clean water funding from the state of Vermont is invaluable in implementing these projects that help to protect and restore our rivers and streams in the Connecticut River watershed," states Kathy Urffer, River Steward for the Connecticut River Conservancy in Vermont.





Saxtons River fishing derby

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. -The Saxtons River Rec Area will hold its annual fishing derby Saturday, May 6, at the ponds on Pleasant Valley Road.

Following last year's schedule, there will be three different age groups in three shifts, to help ensure more children can participate with their families. Children ages 4 to 6 will register at 8 a.m., with fish-

ing beginning at 8:30 a.m. Age group 7 to 10 will register at 9:15 a.m., with fishing starting at 9:45 a.m. Age group 11 through 14 will register at 10:30 a.m.,



Saxtons River fishing derby.

at their correct time will not be able to participate. appropriate-aged child registered and fishing during their given time. Siblings can be present, but cannot

Adults are responsible for providing their children with all the gear, bait, and assistance needed while at the derby. Participants and families will be required to leave the derby once their age group's session has ended unless there is a sibling in the next age group.

Donations towards expenses will be accepted at the derby, and volunteers of all ages are welcome to contact samanthamperry@





home improvement

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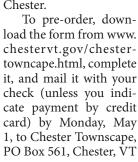
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mixed flowers in a choice of four different combinations: for sunny locations in either hot or cool colors, or for shady locations in either hot or cool colors. They are available by pre-order, and will benefit Chester Townscape, the volunteer organization which provides seasonal flowers in bridge boxes, planters, and public gardens in

To pre-order, downchestervt.gov/chestercheck (unless you indi-PO Box 561, Chester, VT





Pick-up will take place on Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the information booth on Main Street, across from the Chester Village Green. All money raised helps fund Townscape's beautification projects. For questions or alternative pick-up arrangements, please contact Lynn Russell at chestertownscape@gmail.com

Energize Vermont grant supports WindowDressers

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Energize Vermont, a nonprofit energy education and advocacy 2023." organization, recently announced two grant awards to the Guilford and Rockingham Energy Committees, to support the town's Window-Dressers program. Over the last several years, Energize Vermont has granted thousands of dollars to WindowDressers communities. At WindowDressers workshops, community volunteers collaborate to assemble custom-fit plastic film inserts stretched over wooden frames. The Energize Vermont grant is intended to support participation in WindowDressers workshops by lower-income

households. Nancy Detra of the Guilford Energy Committee reflects, "working together in the fall of 2022, about 50 volunteers built 262 window inserts to warm 34 homes and help reduce fuel bills as well as carbon emissions. Our success is due to the goodwill and determination of community members. We are eager to continue providing free inserts to folks who need them in

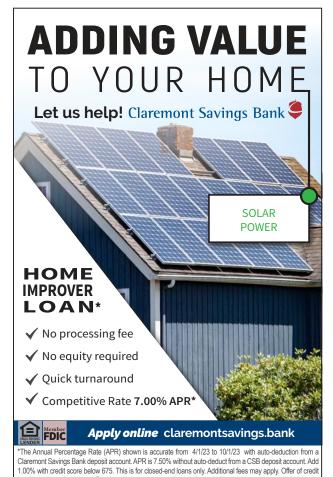
For WindowDressers projects, town Energy Committee volunteers solicit orders for window inserts, and recruit and train volunteer workshop participants. The inserts work like storm windows, but are much less expensive and far easier to install and remove. They fit inside an existing window, adding two insulating spaces and improving the air seal. Window inserts improve the comfort of homes, reduce heating costs, and can reduce carbon footprints.

"I measured a lot of drafty windows in our first two years offering this program, and we heard from many of our customers what a difference the inserts made in their comfort and in lower fuel bills," said Peter Bergstrom of the Rockingham Energy Committee.

Support for Window-Dressers is an element of Energize Vermont's Climate Action Project, which promotes a response to climate change that reduces consumption, limits energy sprawl, and preserves the natural resources that defend Vermont against climate impacts.

The Vermont Window-Dressers effort has technical and material support from Maine's non-profit WindowDressers, which developed the community approach to energy savings. Over the history of the project, Window-Dressers has conducted hundreds of workshops in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The workshops have engaged thousands of community volunteers, and produced over 48,000 window inserts, with 25-30% of those supplied to lowincome households without cost. More information is available at www.windowdressers.org.

Town energy committees or other community groups interested in learning more about Energize Vermont's Grant Program or Vermont Window Project community workshops may contact Becca Dill at becca@ energizevermont.org, Jack Sumberg, Window-Dressers President, at jack. sumberg@gmail.com.





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REGION – The forsythia has become a beloved and iconic springtime plant, with its dazzling yellow

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winter, dotting yards and forest margins throughout Vermont in April.

Forsythias grow readily flowers signaling the end of in Vermont when provided

ing soil. Those with these beautiful, arching plants in their yards know to give the vigorous growers plenty of space to spread, as forsythias are stoloniferous, which means they spread through the growth of adventitious roots along stem nodes. Its blossoms, leaves, and Steven E. Grace, Sr.

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fruit have a rich herbal history. In traditional Chinese medicine, forsythia has been used for its anti-inflammatory and anti-viral properties. While usually prepared as a tea made from young leaves, active medicinal compounds are found in the blossoms as well.

Forsythia blossoms can also be used in culinary creations. The delicate, slightly sweet flavor of the flowers pairs well with a variety of ingredients, making them a sustainable and colorful addition to the spring palate.

From traditional medicine to culinary creations and herbal skincare, forsythia blossoms offer a wealth of opportunities to add beauty, elegance, and sustainability to your life.

Written by Kate Ziegler. Full article online at www. vermontjournal.com.







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